Figtree High School  
Parent Bulletin 
Term 3 Week 2 26th July 2013 

COMING EVENTS 

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<td>NSW Futsal Championships</td>
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<td>Mt Kembla Mine Explosion Excursion 7:30pm</td>
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<td>Bill Turner Cup U/15 Boys Soccer — Regional Final</td>
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<td>P &amp; C Meeting in the Library - 7.30pm</td>
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<td>ISER Awards hosted at Figtree HS</td>
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<td>30.7.13</td>
<td>Year 10 into 11 Information Evening 7pm</td>
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<td>Australian Mathematics Competition</td>
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YEAR 10 into YEAR 11 SUBJECT SELECTION EVENING 2013 

Year 10 students have been involved in the initial phase of selecting subjects for study in Year 11, 2014. This commenced with lessons with the Careers Adviser.

On Thursday 25th July, Year 10 students will be receiving the 2014 Preliminary Course Handbook. This will be followed with presentations by Head Teachers and staff within individual faculties.

To consolidate these learning activities, on Tuesday 30th July Figtree High School will hold its Year 10 into Year 11 Subject Information Night in the school auditorium commencing at 7.00pm.

The evening will give parents/carers and Year 10 students the opportunity to gain further understanding of:

- Higher School Certificate rules and regulations
- ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) formerly the UAI
- Subjects on offer at FHS (subject to final approval)
- Vocational Education & Training options
- TAFE VET options
- The process and timeline for choosing subjects

Parents/Carers & students will have the opportunity to talk to representatives from each faculty at the school to discuss individual subjects and their relevance to future career plans and goals.

Wollongong University and TAFE Illawarra will also have representatives at the evening to answer any questions regarding tertiary study and degree options.

Tea/coffee will be available throughout the evening.

We hope to see all of our current Year 10 students and their parents/carers, at this very important evening.

Additional information about Year 10 subject selection can also be found on The Department of Education and Communities website Schools A-Z under the Planning for the Future link.


Mr Adam Sargent-Wilson  
Relieving Careers Adviser

PBS - Expectation of the Week 

Week 3: RESPECT  
Put rubbish in bins

Week 4: LEARNING  
Be an active listener during assembly
The school distributed student’s half-yearly reports to students towards the end of last semester. The reports were followed by two parent-teacher evenings, one for parents of students in Years 8, 11 and 12 and another evening for parents of students in Years 7, 9 and 10. Both the reports and interviews provided an opportunity for students to receive feedback on their achievements and gain information to plan for continued success and achievement in the next semester.

If you were not able to attend the scheduled parent teacher evening but would like to discuss your child’s half-yearly report, please contact the school to speak with your child’s teachers. A common topic of conversation in many homes is homework.

Do you have any homework? When is that due? When did you get that assignment? What do you mean it’s due tomorrow? Why have you left it to the last minute?

To assist you and your child to plan for success with homework tasks, being organised is the key. The Department of Education and Communities website Schools A-Z has monthly calendars that can be downloaded and used for this purpose. They can be accessed from the following link:


The same website also has some tips and hints for parents in supporting your child with Mathematics, particularly if they are having trouble grasping a particular topic. There are a range of fact sheets and 10 top tips for helping your child with Mathematics. This information can be found at:


The website also has some ‘assignment starter’ resources for a range of subjects and topics. These resources can be accessed from:


Do you have a student in Years 10, 11 or 12?

What is an N Warning letter and what does it mean?

Teachers will send home an N Warning letter if a student in Years 10, 11 or 12 is not satisfactorily meeting the requirements of a course. This can occur if a student is not attending school, not completing classwork, they do not complete a mandatory assessment task and/or they are not applying themselves with diligence or sustained effort.

If you receive an N warning letter for your child, this needs urgent attention. The N warning letter will identify what the student needs to do to satisfactorily meet the course requirements. The letter will identify the classwork and/or assessment tasks that need to be completed. We seek parents support in ensuring that they discuss any N warning letter with their child and the importance of students completing the work requirements.

If a student receives 2 N Warning letters in a course, and the student does not complete the set tasks, the student can be given an N Determination. An N determination in a mandatory course can stop a student from receiving their Record of School Achievement (ROSA) and progressing onto Preliminary or HSC courses.

Therefore, prevention of N Warnings is preferred, and this can be done by ensuring that students attend school, complete classwork to the best of their ability and complete all assessment tasks.

Further information about N warning letters and N Determinations can be found on the NSW Board of Studies website at the link below. Alternatively, you can contact the relevant class teacher or Head Teacher who can discuss the N warning letter with you.


Ellie Donovan
Deputy Principal
Gold Awards

Congratulations to Aaron Cunningham, Sarah Duncan, Clayton Weatherall (Year 12) and Michael Valceski (Year 11) who have all qualified for the prestigious Gold Award in the school's merit system. These students have earned 150 merits for a variety of reasons such as academic achievement, participation in sporting activities, being involved in extra-curricular activities and school service. They were able to present a large number of merits given across a range of subjects, indicating that they are prepared to work to the best of their ability at all times. Each of these students has received several Principal and Year Advisor's commendations, another demonstration of their consistent work ethic.

These four students have been excellent role models for younger students and have clearly demonstrated a commitment to following the school values of Respect, Safety and Learning. They are most worthy recipients of the Gold Award, which will be presented to them at a school assembly.

Congratulations to Aaron, Sarah, Clayton and Michael on your fine achievement!

Silver and Bronze Certificates

Congratulations to the following students who have recently reached Silver or Bronze level in the school’s merit system.

Silver

Meghan Fox (first student in Year 7 to qualify for a Silver certificate!)

Bronze

Tilda Bennett, Payton Williams, Callum Dodds, Abby Churchin, Jade Gray, Krystal Grogan, Dylan Ward and David Watson (Year 7)

PBS Prize Draw

Congratulations to Jessica Oates, Huseyin Huseyin (Year 12) Rebecca Prstec and Aaron Nicholls (Year 7) who each received either a $5 canteen voucher or an iTunes voucher because they had their RSL ticket drawn out on assembly. RSL tickets are given to students who are seen to be practising the school's values of Respect, Safety and Learning. Students are encouraged to drop their RSL tickets into the box in the administration block so that they can be included in the weekly prize draw. RSL tickets are also tallied for each student and can be used towards earning merits for Bronze and Silver certificates.

Ms Dive

Merit Coordinator

University of New South Wales (UNSW)

Indigenous Winter school program

Rebecca Neal of year 11 was selected from a large number of applicants to take part in the Indigenous winter school program run by UNSW. The school is very proud that she was chosen from such a competitive application process and hope that this program will help her in her future career. Here is Rebecca’s report………..

On the 7th July, 150 high school students made their way from all over Australia to UNSW for Nura Gili’s 2013 Winter School. Staying on campus for a week, each student was put into their faculties; Medicine, Law, Social Work, Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Built Environment, Indigenous Studies, Engineering and Education.

The one-week program gave students an insight into university life, campus living, and their chosen degrees. Being in medicine, I was exposed to many different things throughout the week, starting from the first day. There were 17 in the group, and first up we attended a lecture titled ‘Welcome to Medicine’, where we were given a rundown of what exactly the 6 years of Medicine course includes.

We continued through the day to do some lab work, our topics were DNA and microbiology. We assessed samples of DNA and ran an experiment to test samples of DNA and discover which ones match. In microbiology we learnt about viruses, bacteria and other organisms and the significance of washing your hands thoroughly. Later on in the evening we visited the Museum of Human Disease, located on campus, where donated body parts, organs, and tissues were put on display to show the effect of diseases, accidents and even murders.

On our second faculty day, we visited St Vincent Hospital and were given a tour through the emergency department where we were able to see patients, nurses and doctors working together. We then moved on to learn how to put a cast on someone. We were all given the chance to make a cast on a fellow student, and we then all left the hospital with a cast on our arms, though the streets of Sydney. We made our way back to UNSW, where we were quickly moved into a lab. This lesson was on suturing (stitches), and we were given a pig’s trotter to practice on. We also learnt how to check for ear and eye problems, and take a patient’s blood pressure.

On our final faculty day we sat in on a class of anatomy. In this class we were exposed to cadavers (donated bodies and body parts), and in particular brains. The doctor teaching allowed us to
listen in to his lesson, then touch and look at the cadavers to get a better understanding of the insides of a human body. We finished the day with a scenario project on teenage pregnancy, followed by a seminar about depression and mental health problems from the Black Dog Institute. And finally, a lecture on ethics and how they are incorporated into medicine.

Overall, the week was very interesting and gave me a much greater understanding of university life and what studying Medicine involves. It helped a lot in determining what I want to do in the future in regards to university. I would advise anyone who gets the chance to go to Winter School to do so, the people you meet along the week, the behind the scenes things you get to see, and the memories you make, make the week so much better than I ever expected.

Rebecca Neal
Year 11

LANGUAGES

Year 7 has begun French after two terms of German. Parents and students are reminded that in Term 4 students will choose one of these two languages to continue in Year 8 for their compulsory 100 hours of language study.

Many of our students took part in the online Language Perfect World Championships held between 20th and 30th May. They were tested on their reading, listening and writing skills, gaining points by learning words and as they reached certain thresholds, students earned certificates and went in the draw to win prizes. Those students worthy of particular mention are:

**Gold Award** (placing students in the top 2% of 225,000 competitors from around the world)
Year 10 Jason Rees, Lewis Elgey, Brandon McBey, Elise Oakman, David Jolliffe

Year 8 Kimia Rahmannia

**Silver Award** (top 5%)
Year 12 Joel Baumann, Sarah Duncan
Year 10 Nathan Turner
Year 8 Michael Oakman, Dayna Brunskill

**Bronze Award** (top 20%)
Year 11 Bailey Blundell
Year 10 Chanel Stone, Jake Austin, Daniel McKeown, Rachel Watson

There were also 19 **Credit Awards** placing those students in the top 20%.

Congratulations to Jason Rees, Lewis Elgey, David Jolliffe (Year 10) and Kimia Rahmannia (Year 8) who each won an iPod Shuffle which had been kindly donated by the organisers of the Language Perfect competition.

This use of technology is a great way to help students reinforce language learnt. Regular revision of vocabulary cannot be underestimated as one of the best ways of gaining confidence in all skills. Students who have now registered with Language Perfect are encouraged to utilise this wonderful online vocabulary building resource. All relevant course book vocabulary and structures have been uploaded to this site. As well as helping reinforce knowledge of vocabulary, Language Perfect also provides excellent sound files so that students can practise pronunciation using native speakers as models.

The school’s Moodle site contains copies of vocabulary lists, worksheets and relevant quizzes. The Year 7 Moodle course allows students to listen to and practise their Speaking questions as well as access all relevant vocabulary. Year 8 students are encouraged to attempt any revision exercises placed in the Year 8 Moodle course as well as utilise the links to Languages Online.

There are a number of other free online websites which students are encouraged to access to reinforce work covered in class. These include:

**Quizlet** - [http://quizlet.com/](http://quizlet.com/)


**BBC Bitesize German** - [http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcse bitesize/german/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcse bitesize/german/) (This site is particularly useful for senior students)

P.Dive and P.Simmonds

Language Teachers
Principal’s Report

The Australian Curriculum and Aboriginal History were the key focus areas of our Term 3 staff development day activities at Figtree High School. The “No Gap: No Excuse” training developed our teacher’s knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal history, culture and learning to assist their capacity to enhance the delivery of Aboriginal perspectives through all learning areas and improve educational outcomes for Aboriginal students. The delivery of the training was facilitated by Mrs Julie Liddle who’s depth of knowledge and passion in this area made the training a valuable experience for all staff involved. Planning for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum in 2014 continues and will see our staff working in together with our partner primary schools on Friday 26 July on the Mathematics and English continuums.

Term 3 also commenced with the sad news that Mrs Penny Costello (Music teacher at Figtree High School 2007 – 2013) died after her battle with lung cancer. The Figtree High School community deeply appreciated the dynamic, inspirational and faithful service that Mrs Costello gave to our school. She touched the lives of students, parents and staff in a very special way and will be missed greatly.

Our students and staff continue to excel in all facets of education, leadership and sport. Rhys Kilian (Yr 12) has recently returned from representing Australia at the National Youth Science Forum in South Africa. Nathan Leatigaga (Yr 12) represented NSW in the Australian Secondary Schools Rugby League 18-Years National Championships in Cairns. The NSW Combined High Schools team, coached by Mr Adam Sargent-Wilson, won the National title at this event. As part of Education Week Bradley Heino (Yr 11) and Emiliee Colbeck (Yr 11) have been invited to participate in the Director-General For A Day activities. Brad and Emily will attend a working lunch with the Minister and discuss current directions in education. They will also participate in a forum with senior officers from the Office of the NSW Ombudsman.

The Illawarra and South East Region Excellence in Education Awards will be hosted by Figtree High School on Friday 2nd August as part of Education Week celebrations.

In addition to hosting the awards, our students and school will be recognised for excellence in several categories. Rhys Kilian (Excellence in Student Achievement), Mrs Meryl Jackson-Kew (Excellent Contribution beyond the Classroom) and Flametree – Figtree High School (Excellence in Special Education). I would like to congratulate the staff and students for their outstanding efforts and the ongoing credit they bring to our school and public education.

During Term 3, Mrs Carol Marshman will be performing the role of Relieving Director, Public Schools Wollongong Network. Mr Achim Linnenlucke (HT Mathematics) will be relieving for me as Deputy Principal during this time.

David C Deitz
Relieving Principal
Sporting News

Athletics
As I said in our last school newsletter, we had just completed our Athletics carnival. It was a fantastic day and the Age Champions for the day were:

Girls Age Champions
12 years - Camelia Ali
13 years – Demi Westwood
14 years – Teghan Barklay
15 years – Erika Petersen
16 years – Taylah Dewhurst
17 + years - Georgia Clark and Rebecca Soper

Boys Age Champion
12 years - Cameron Lodge
13 years – Matthew Hobbs
14 years – Jarod Twigg
15 years – Adam Bassuni
16 Year – Henry Heritage
17 years – Chris Twigg

The Zone Athletics day was held on the 17th and 18th June and we had a very large contingent of students attend on these days. Our students performed extremely well and while we have not been informed of the Age champions for these days we do know that Figtree HS came 2nd overall in the pointscore. This is a huge achievement as we only narrowly missed out on first place. Below are some photos of the day. In our next newsletter we will have the full list of results.

Figure 2 - Camelia Ali in the 12yr relay

Figure 3 - Matthew Hobbs in the 13yr relay

Cross Country
This year we have seen some outstanding results from our Cross Country runners. We have 8 runners racing at Eastern Creek in the NSW CHS event. They are:
* Jayden Smileski
* Cameron Lodge
* Callum Dodds
* Aiden Imber
* Pip McHenry
* Joshua Head
* Adam Bassuni
* Tim Tschentscher

We wish these runners the best of luck.

Hockey
Congratulations to Mitchell Galea of Yr 10 who made the CHS U16’s school boys Hockey team. Mitchell will head to Hobart on the 11th – 17th August to compete in the championships. Well done!

Figure 4 - Mitchell Galea our NSW CHS Hockey team member
**Wednesday Sport**

Our Zone competition which we participate in weekly is going well. Figtree High School have all teams represented and each week our students show great sportsmanship and pride in their school. The finals for this will be in Term 3.

Non competition sport is also doing well. We have a number of instructors who either come to the school or take our school groups. At all times our students show respect and participate in all activities.

Just a reminder that sport is compulsory and all students must attend sport on a Wednesday afternoon.

**Sporting Teams**

We have had a number of teams participating in knockout events this term with some fantastic results.

The boys **hockey** team played Albion Park and while we did not win the boys were impressive with their effort. They were competitive right up to the final whistle and should be congratulated on their sportsmanship.

The girls **tennis** team advanced to the final four in the South Coast region but were narrowly defeated and ended up coming 3rd overall.

The boys **tennis** team were winners of the South Coast region and now progress to West Wyalong next term.

Our **soccer** teams have also been very busy. The girls U15’s lost in a nail biter to TIGS and the Open girls team lost in penalty shots to Moss Vale HS.

Our Boys Bill Turner cup **soccer** team is still progressing and we wish them all the best for their next game.

Figtree High School should be proud of all its sporting achievements. With the cooperation of staff, parents and students we are able to be represented to the highest standard in the community.

Well done and keep up the great work!

Mr Smart, Mrs Markham, Mr Braithwaite, Mr Black, Mrs Lawson, Ms Quill, Ms Popovska and Ms Harlor. (PE Staff)

**Bill Turner Cup Team Through To South Coast Final**

The Under 15 Boys soccer team defeated Albion Park High School in a stirring victory last Friday. This means that the team has reached the Area Final, and is one of the final 32 teams in this competition.

The team started confidently as always, with Josh Mears and Ethan Kambisios controlling the midfield, however, we struggled to find the net. James Solevski then made one of his trademark powerhouse run to break the deadlock with an excellent goal, and we went in to half time with a slim lead. The second half started with rain tumbling down, and a worried Figtree coach as Albion Park came back strongly. Our defence was tested with several corners, and one shot hitting the post, however, Figtree held on strongly and turned the tide. Goals from Emanuel Kamara, super-sub Chris Popovski, and two more from James (another hat trick!) saw Figtree run away with the game for another strong win. Final score: Figtree 5, Albion Park 0.

We now look forward to this week’s final which is against Keira High School. At this stage the game is set for Friday July 26th, at 12.30 on the PCYC field in Exeter St Wollongong. This is the first time in many years that the Figtree team has made the Area final, so congratulation to the boys on their achievement. As always, it’s one game at a time and we are looking forward to a big effort on Friday!

**Chris McGavock**

Coach
Personalised Learning and Support Tool (PLASST) 2013 Trial

During the next few weeks our school, along with other public schools in the area, will be participating in the trial of a new tool (PLASST) being developed by the Department of Education and Communities for teachers to identify the learning and support needs of their students.

This trial is focussed on the development of a sound and reliable online tool that, when finalised, can be used by teachers in collaboration with parents and carers to identify the strengths and educational needs of students with additional learning and support needs. This information will assist schools in planning and personalising learning and support for individual students who require adjustments in their day to day learning.

The trial will involve teachers completing an online questionnaire about the educational needs of some of their students. Students themselves will not be required to complete any additional work or be formally assessed as part of the trial. This trial will not impact on students’ education provisions.

Further information about the PLASST trial, including the collection and use of data in the trial, will be provided by the school in a letter to parents and carers.

If you have any questions about the PLASST trial, would like to discuss your child’s involvement or would prefer that your child does not participate, please telephone the school on 4271 2787.

Southern Stars EXTRA!

Parents/Carers have you purchased your tickets yet?

Rehearsals are well underway for this year’s Southern Stars, and with only a month to go until the performances at the WIN Entertainment Centre on Friday August 30 and Saturday August 31, now is the best time to purchase your tickets.

Over 12,000 people are expected to attend the four performances of this year’s show – make sure you are one of them!

EXTRA! is the title of this year’s show, and the theme explores the changing face of media and news and information gathering.

The show incorporates all of the usual elements you would expect in a musical arena spectacular show but there will be a few interesting surprises too, including a circus troupe, swing band, and an unorthodox marching band to name just a few.

You don’t have to have a child in the show to purchase a ticket - if you are a fan of great family entertainment then Southern Stars is the show for you.

Tickets are on sale now through Ticketek and are priced as follows: Adult $45, Pensioner and student over 12 $35, Student/Child under12 $25 and Family pass $130. www.ticketek.com.au

Telephone Interpreter Service

If you need help with English to make an enquiry contact the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. The operator will call the number you provide and get an interpreter on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.
SCHOOL SAFETY NOTICE TO DRIVERS

There is NO EXCUSE for disobeying traffic control signs and road rules in the vicinity of a school. There are NO APOLOGIES for issuing infringement notices to offenders. Parking dangerously, blocking sight lines, blocking buses and crossings puts children’s lives at risk.

NO STOPPING

Under no circumstances are you permitted to stop on a length of road to which a NO STOPPING sign applies.

(Penalty: exceeds $304 + two demerit points)

NO PARKING

You are permitted to stop in a NO PARKING zone only while you are engaged in dropping off or picking up passengers.

You must stay within three metres of our vehicle.

You must not stop for more than two minutes.

(Penalty: exceeds $169 + two demerit points)

BUS ZONE

You are not permitted to stop in a BUS ZONE unless you are driving a public bus.

(Penalty: exceeds $304 + two demerit points)

CHILDREN’S CROSSING

You are not permitted to stop within 20 metres before the crossing and 10 metres after the crossing.

(Penalty: exceeds $405 + two demerit points)

DOUBLE PARKING

You must not stop on a road between the centre of the road and another car that is parked at the side of the road to wait or pick up or drop off passengers.

THE COST OF TAKING YOUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON YOU!